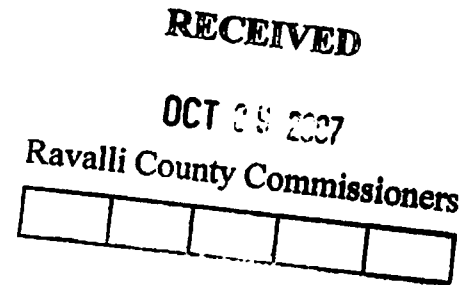


September 25, 2007

The Honorable Ravalli County Commissioners
215 South 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840



Dear Jim, Greg, Alan, Carlotta and Kathleen,

I have a concern about the lack of rehabilitation work and the influx of weeds within the county road right-of-way along Old Corvallis Road.

I live on Old Corvallis Road, along the section between the fairgrounds and GSK, through which the city sewer connections were installed a few years ago.

Prior to the installation of sewer, the area of the road easement in front of my yard was well-maintained and attractive. I seeded it, and kept the grass watered and mown as did many of my neighbors. While not all of the homes in the area did this, many did and the right-of-way was an attractive border along this section of well-traveled road.

Due to the disturbance and lack of rehab work following installation of the sewer, maintenance of the right-of-way is no longer possible. The installation of the sewer, with no follow-up rehabilitation efforts, has resulted in rocky, uneven ground with no topsoil. This surface cannot be seeded or mown. The result is nearly two miles of unsightly, weed infested mess. Due to the unkempt nature of this stretch of right-of-way, it now collects more trash and garbage and the occasional abandoned car.

In visiting with Bryce Christiaens last spring, it's my understanding that rehabilitation plans incorporating reseeding and weed spread mitigation steps are required for county road construction projects.

The rehab work is needed to reduce the spread of weeds – I have noticed dalmatian toadflax, houndstongue, and other noxious & invasive weeds through the length of the disturbed area. While spending funds to treat weeds on my own property, it is frustrating to know that a new weed source is so close, and should have been prevented.

The rehab work is also appropriate and desirable given the significance of the GSK plant to our area economy. We have a world class facility that will attract many state & national elected officials and international visitors and business people. It is a poor reflection on Ravalli County that these visitors must travel along such an unsightly route. Lastly, it seems only fair to those homeowners who, previous to the sewer project, took it upon themselves to improve sections of the right-of-way in order to improve the

appearance of their own properties for the County to ensure that the area is left in no less good condition following an approved road project.

I have had estimates provided from private contractors for reclaiming the area in front of my house. They have suggested rock picking, to remove the largest of the river rock, and spreading 3" of topsoil prior to planting. The option to leave the rocks in place and spread 6 inches of topsoil was also offered. I would suggest that a mixture of dry pasture grasses coupled with blue flax and/or sunflowers would be better in most locations than bluegrass or other grasses that must be tended regularly, although you might give landowners in the area the option of purchasing & planting their own seed mixture in case some landowners would prefer to have the "lawn look" extend from their yard to the road shoulder.

It would be ideal for this rehab work to be accomplished this fall prior to any plans GSK might have for a grand opening of their new facility so that we can demonstrate our county's pride in the facility by improving the health and appearance of the access route to the facility.

I realize your plates are full with many needs, and that your budgets are limited. However, I respectfully ask that you review the permits provided for the sewer project and that you ensure follow-up reclamation is accomplished in a timely manner.

I would be glad to visit with you about this need if you have any further questions. My cell phone is 369-0793.

With great appreciation for all that you and your staff ^{do} in your service to our County,

Thanks Nan

Nan Christianson
465 Old Corvallis Road
Hamilton, MT 59840

Cc: Bryce Christiaens, County Weed District Supervisor